

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of decontaminating a structure

contaminated by pathogenic microorganisms comprising the steps of:

(a) substantially sealing a contaminated structure sufficiently to enable retention of a predetermined concentration of methyl bromide gas;

(b) introducing methyl bromide gas into the substantially sealed contaminated structure to a concentration of methyl bromide in an amount sufficient to deactivate said pathogenic microorganisms and disable germination of pathogenic bacteria spores;

(c) maintaining said substantially sealed contaminated structure with said concentration of methyl bromide for a sufficient period of time to deactivate said pathogenic microorganisms and to disable germination of said pathogenic bacteria spores associated with said contaminated structure;

(d) wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas and period of time are inversely varied while providing sufficient gas to disable germination of said pathogenic bacteria spores associated with said contaminated structure; and

(e) wherein a baseline concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 80mg/liter, and a baseline period of time is 48 hours.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2830, wherein the ambient humidity within the contaminated structure is approximately 21%.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2830, wherein the ambient humidity within the contaminated structure is between 21% and 100%.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2830, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 60ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 72 hours.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2830, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 40ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 96 hours.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2830, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 160ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 24 hours.

37. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the ambient humidity within the contaminated structure is between 21% and 100%.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently) A method of decontaminating a structure contaminated by pathogenic microorganisms and associated spores comprising the steps of:

(a) substantially sealing a contaminated structure sufficiently to enable

retention of a predetermined concentration of methyl bromide gas;₁

(b) introducing methyl bromide gas into the substantially sealed contaminated structure to a concentration of methyl bromide in an amount sufficient to deactivate said pathogenic microorganisms and disable germination of pathogenic bacteria spores;₁

(c) maintaining said substantially sealed contaminated structure with said concentration of methyl bromide for a sufficient period of time to deactivate said pathogenic microorganisms and to disable germination of said pathogenic bacteria spores associated with said contaminated structure;₁

(d) wherein temperature is kept at approximately 37°C, the concentration of methyl bromide is approximately 80 mg/l and above, and an exposure time is approximately 48 hours;₂